

Message Text

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STATE PASS SENATOR STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN OVIP PLO LE (STEVENSON, ADLAI, JR)

SUBJ: SENATOR STEVENSON QUOTED ON PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT PRESS

1. FEB 18 BEIRUT PRESS OUTLINED SENATOR STEVENSON'S SCHEDULE AND MEETINGS IN BEIRUT ON BASIS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CLOVIS MAKSOUD AND PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY (Wafa). COVERAGE AND PHOTO OF SENATOR SEATED WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT WIDELY PLAYED ON INSIDE PAGES.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC-LANGUAGE "AN-NAHAR", WITH WHICH MAKSOUD IS CLOSELY LINKED, BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED

REMARKS OF 'ARAFAT, MAKSOUD, SAEB SALAM, RAYMOND EDDE, AND GHASSAN TUENI DURING MEETINGS WITH SENATOR. APER ATTRIBUTED FOLLOWING SUMMARIZED REMARKS TO SENATOR:

(A) IN RESPONSE TO SALAM'S URGING THAT U.S. ABANDON ITS ALLEGED PARTIALITY FOR ISRAEL, QUOTE HE SAID NO MATTER HOW MUCH A POLITICIAN IN AMERICAN MAY BE INFLUENCED BY ZIONIST VIEWS AND INFLUENCE, TOUR OF ARAB REGION AND IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH ARAB LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS INEVITABLY REDUCE BIAS PRESENT IN PREVIOUS AMERICAN ATTITUDES UNQUOTE;

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(B) QUOTE HE EXPLAINED SOME ASPECTS OF CHANGE

IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND SAID OIL EMBARGO
AND 1973 WAR HAD CREATED AMONG AMERICANS NEW
AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF ARABS AND NECESSITY
OF TAKING THEIR ATTITUDES SERIOUSLY UNQUOTE;
(C) QUOTE HE SAID THAT IT MUST BE ADMITTED PLO
IS THE REAL INTERLOCUTOR IN NAME OF PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE AND THAT HE HAS BECOME CONVINCED PALESTINIAN
PROBLEM CONSTITUTES HEART OF PROBLEM IN MIDEAST.
HE ADDED THAT IMAGE OF PLO IN U.S. HAD CHANGED
CONSIDERABLY NOW THAT CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE
ROLE IT IS PLAYING ALONG WITH SYRIA TO TRY AND BRING
ABOUT STABILITY IN LEBANON HAS BECOME CLEAR UNQUOTE.

3. BOTH LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR"
AND LEADING ARAB NATTONALIST "AS-SAFIR" OBSERVED
THAT, ALTHOUGH SENATOR JOINED IN DIALOGUE, HE
WAS MORE EAGER TO LISTEN AND INQUIRE THAN TO
EXPRESS VIEWSAND TAKE POSITIONS. "AS-SAFIR"
ADDED QUOTE SENATOR THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY SENATOR
JACKSON, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS PRO-ZIONIST STAND,
WOULD BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. HE SAID U.S. IS IN
PROCESS OF RETHINKING MIDEAST AND IT IS NOT
UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL TAKE STEPS CONFIRMING RIGHTS
OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, WHO ARE INDEED REPRESENTED
BY PLO UNQUOTE.

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